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Message Text

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61
ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11 EUR-25 RSC-01 IO-14

PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 SCI-06 FEA-02 AEC-11 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15

PRS-01 DRC-01 /203 W
---------- 091497
P R 301900Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6690
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
US MISSION IAEA VIENNA 73
US MISSION GENEVA 318
US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 153
USUN NEW YORK 520
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY CAMBERRA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS; TECH, IN, PARM, AR
SUBJECT: REACTION TO INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST

REF: STATE 104647; BUENOS AIRES 3676

1. SUMMARY. SOME REACTION TO INDIA'S NUCLEAR TEST APPEARING HERE IN RELATION TO INDIAN FONMIN'S VISIT AND SIGNING OF INDIA-ARGENTINA ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT. PAL SINGH HAS REITERATED INDIA'S PEACEFUL INTENTIONS IN STATEMENTS HERE. PRESS HAS BEGUN SPECULATING ON WHETHER ARGENTINA MIGHT FOLLOW INDIA'S EXAMPLE. GOA HAS BEEN SILENT ON MATTER TO DATE. END SUMMARY.

2. ARGENTINE PRESS REACTING MILDLY TO INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST, WITH REACTION KEYED TO VISIT OF INDIAN FONMIN SURENDRA PAL SINGH. SINGH VISITING BUENOS AIRES MAY 28-MAY 30 AS PART OF SOUTH AMERICAN TOUR WHICH INCLUDES VISITS TO COLOMBIA AND BRAZIL. ON HIS PROGRAM HERE, IN ADDITION TO SIGNING ATOMIC ENERGY AGREEMENT (SETEL) AND CULTURAL AGREEMENT, IS VISIT TO ATUCHA NUCLEAR POWER STATION.

3. FOLLOWING COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT PERON, THE INDIAN FONMIN CHARACTERIZED TO THE PRESS THE MEETING AS CONCERNING PROBLEM OF THE THIRD WORLD AND OF THE POSITIONS OF ARGENTINA AND INDIA THEREIN.

4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT INDIA'S NUCLEAR TEST, SINGH STATED THAT INDIA HAD NO INTENTION TO IMPEL (IMPULSAR) THAT ATOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR WAR. THAT FEAR, HE EMPHASIZED, SHOULD NOT BE FELT BY ANYONE. HE INDICATED THAT INDIA WAS INTERESTED IN THE APPLICATION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES.

5. JOSE RICARDO ELIASCHEV, WRITING IN CRONISTA COMERCIAL, NOTED THAT INDIA HAS NOT ONLY BECOME THE 1ST NUCLEAR POWER OF THE 3RD WORLD, BUT ALSO A PIONEER IN SPECIFYING THAT ITS ATOMIC ARSENAL WILL NOT BE USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. COLUMN REPORTS INTERNATIONAL REACTIONS, INCLUDING CAPSULE SUMMARY OF CCD STATEMENTS, BUT OMITS ANY REFERENCE TO CANADIAN OR JAPANESE CONDEMNATIONS. AUTHOR NOTES COLD DETERMINATION OF INDIA TO ATTEND TO PRODUCTION
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OF PLUTONIUM ABOVE EFFORTS TO PRODUCE PROTEIN FOR 600 MILLION HUMAN BEINGS. "TO NEGOTIATE A PEACE WITH FOOD, ROOF AND SCHOOL FOR ALL, WILL IT REMAIN FOR THE OTHER SEMI-LARGE (POWERS) OF THE WORLD TO LEARN TO SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF NUCLEAR FISSION? EVEN IN ARGENTINA, THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WOULD BE THINKING IN SIMILAR TERMS."

6. ENRIQUE ALONSO IN LA OPINION RAISES QUESTION OF LINKAGE OF

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ARGENTINA-INDIA ATOMIC AGREEMENT WITH INDIA'S NUCLEAR TEST. HE QUOTES "OFFICIAL SOURCES" AS EMPHATICALLY DENYING THAT ARGENTINA WOULD DEVELOP ITS NUCCLEAR ACTIVITY TO THE POINT OF FABRICATING A BOMB. HE NOTES, HOWEVER, THAT ARGENTINE PROGRAM WILL EVENTUALLY ESTABLISH THE NECESSARY PREREQUISITES TO DO JUST THAT. ALONSO NOTES THAT INDIA NOW MORE RESPECTED AS WAS CHINA WHEN IT FIRST EXPLODED AN ATOMIC DEVICE. IN WAKE OF INDIA-ARGENTINA AGREEMENT, QUESTION OF WHETHER ARGENTINE NOW CLOSER TO ENTERING "NUCLEAR CLUB" HAS TWO ANSWERS: (1) "NO, SINCE (IT) MAINTAINS ITS WILL (VOLUNTED) FOR PEACEFUL UTILIZATION OF THE ATOM"; (2) YES, SINCE (IT) HAS OPENED THE POSSIBILITY TO MAKE A DECISION THAT DOES NOT DEPEND AT PRESENT SO MUCH ON TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE, OR ON THE AVAILABILITY OF RESOURCES, AS ON THE POLITICAL WILL (VOLUNTAD)".

7. WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY OFFICIAL GOA STATEMENTS TO DATE ON THE INDIAN NUCLEAR TEST.
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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
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